The range of Chinese literary forms has been extended by contact with the West. Poetry, drama, and fiction often show the effects of Occidental influence. Newspapers and magazines are being issued in great quantities. Most of the newspapers are bitterly partisan and propagandist, but some of the magazines are of better quality. Perhaps in part as a development from the placards which for years have been employed to arouse public opinion, propagandists have made extensive use of cartoons and printed slogans which, often in glaring colors, have been affixed to walls in public places. Under Russian tutelage this type of agitation was given an especial impetus in the northward march of the Kuomintang armies in 1926-1927. It has been effective in anti-foreign boycotts and provides a favorite medium for a type of popular education.

The scope of Chinese thought has also been broadened. Western books covering a wide range of subjects have been translated in large numbers. Natural science especially has become popular. At first sight it seems strange that the Chinese, who for a highly civilized people have long been so backward in mathematics and the natural sciences, should suddenly adopt with enthusiasm scientific processes and results. Indeed, not a few of the younger men have shown marked skill in scientific research. However, the this-worldly attitude encouraged by Confucianism, the practical outlook of much of Chinese philosophy, and the ingenuity long displayed in the invention of mechanical appliances have probably been a preparation for the scientific approach.

Printing is now more and more by movable type, although the older methods are still employed. Great publishing houses have arisen, the most notable being the Commercial

Press. It was given a severe blow by the destruction of its central plant in Shanghai in 1932 by the Japanese and by the enhanced Japanese invasion which began in 1937, but it has branches in all the more important Chinese cities.

With their love of books the Chinese have paid a good deal of attention to libraries. In spite of civil wars, a number have been assembled, some of them public. For example, the various collections in the old imperial palaces in the capital have been brought together, and a new National Library building has been erected in Peking, embodying much of the equipment and the methods of modern Western libraries.